

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 18, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fujimori et al. (US Pub. 2004/0169810) in view of Choi (US Pat. 6,781,658) and further in view of Castleberry (Re 33,829).

Claim 3 stands allowed.

Claim 21 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 10-17, 19, and 20 stand withdrawn from consideration.

Summary of Amendment

No claims have been amended at this time. Claims 1-22 are currently pending, with claims 1-9, 18, 21, and 22 under further consideration.

Interview

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy of allowing a personal interview, especially since the status of the application is currently after final rejection. Although no agreement was reached during the interview, Examiner's comments were helpful in understanding the prior art discussed in the interview. The following comments are an extension of the discussion held during the interview.

All Claims Comply Under §103

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for allowing claim 3 and indicating that claim 21 would be allowable. Based on the following comments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 4-9, 18, and 23 are also allowable for the reasons stated below.

Independent claims 1 and 18 both recite, in part, “the data line between the first and the second pixel regions includes *a first branch line* and *a second branch line* separated from each other by *a second gap* under *the first gap*.” As acknowledged in the Office Action, neither the primary reference Fujimori nor secondary reference Choi teaches or even suggests such a feature. Contrary to the Office Action, newly cited reference, Castleberry, does not teach or even suggest such a feature either.

The Office Action does not point to any particular figure or section of the prior art for the alleged teaching. At best, it appears the Office Action is referring to Figure 2 that shows data line 32 having an upper portion and a lower portion with an insulating layer 34 in between. However, this figure does not teach “the data line between the first and the second pixel regions includes *a first branch line* and *a second branch line* separated from each other by *a second gap* under *the first gap*.” The data line 32 as shown in cross-sectional view of Figure 2 shows that the upper portion of data line 32 is formed around the insulating layer 34 and connects to the lower portion of data line 32. In another words, the data line 32 as disclosed in Castleberry are not “separated” from each other by a second gap as recited in independent claims 1 and 18. Hence, Castleberry does not teach “a first branch line” and “second branch line” as recited in independent claims 1 and 18.

Due to the ambiguity of the final Office Action, it may be that the rejection was referring to “finger projections 32a and 32b” as the first and second branch lines. However, these projections are not “data lines.” Castleberry explicitly discloses that these “projections form *source electrodes* for an FET.” (See col. 5, lns. 65-66.) More importantly, even if these projections are construed as first and second branch lines for purposes of argument, the gap between finger projections between 32a and 32b is not *under a first gap* as recited in independent claims 1 and 18. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that Fujimori, Choi, and Castleberry, whether taken individually or in combination, fail to teach the invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 18 for at least the reasons stated above.

As to dependent claims 2, 4-9, 21, and 22, these claims all depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. Hence, Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the references, taken individually or in combination, renders these claims unpatentable for at least the reason presented above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants’ undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

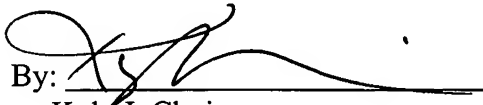
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time

under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 31, 2005

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